

MINUTES

WASHINGTON STATE JAIL INDUSTRIES BOARD

January 28, 2005

**Criminal Justice Training Center
19010 1st Avenue South
Burien, Washington**

Members Present: Jim Berrios, Ed Crawford, Kenneth Kunes, Debra Latimer, Andre Loh, Randy Loomans, Helen McGovern, Runette Mitchell, Marvin Wolff, Chandra Wrzesinski, Jill Will (staff)

Proxies Presented: Dan Plotner for Garry Lucas, Joe Koval for Howard Yarbrough

Members Absent: David Dillman, David Johnson, Jane Johnson, Sean Morrow, Jim Powers

Guest: Cary James, Undersheriff, Whatcom County

A. Quorum Check

Chair Marvin Wolff confirmed that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Members introduced themselves.

B. Election of Officers

Nominations were taken from the floor for the two Vice-Chair positions. Randy Loomans and Debra Latimer were nominated for Vice-Chair and elected. Marvin Wolff was nominated for the Chair position and elected.

C. Approval of the Minutes: December 3, 2004 meeting

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

D. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Will presented the Executive Director's report and there was discussion on some items. Ms. Will noted that at the last meeting the Board directed her to send a mailing on best practices to the field along with other information. The best practice information is still being written up and will be sent at a later date. All other information was sent as directed.

Board funding is intact within the Department of Corrections/Correctional Industries appropriated budget for the upcoming biennium.

Ms. Will noted that the recent needs assessment survey showed that one of the areas of greatest interest was information on grants. The Board will use the free federal government grant listing service, grants.gov, for federal grants. Ms. Will requested

authority to purchase a commercial grant listing service subscription for foundation grants on a two to three month trial basis for \$16.95 per month. It was moved and seconded to approve the expenditure on a trial basis. The motion carried.

Thurston County Corrections is starting up a new salmon recovery crew in partnership with the Thurston Conservation District. Ms. Will will forward apprenticeship related information to Thurston County.

Pierce County is seeking funding to continue a workplace-based education program in partnership with Bates Technical College. There are seven non-profit foundations that may be potential funders. Bates will pursue educational related funding.

Kent received a two year \$80,000 federal grant with Renton Technical College for educational services.

ACTION ITEM: Ed Crawford provide Jill Will with contact information regarding the Kent educational grant.

Grant County has suffered budget cuts and cut two full time work crew supervisor positions. The County is searching for alternative funding.

Marvin Wolff noted that Whatcom County received a \$400,000 state grant for design and development of the new Whatcom County jail. The interim jail work center is scheduled to be on line in February 2006, and the new jail four years after that.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Will requested that Other Business be taken up to discuss Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 8206 heard January 27 in Olympia. Sponsored by Senate Hargrove, the resolution proposes an amendment to the state constitution which would have the effect of allowing private sector employment of offenders within correctional facilities. This type of employment was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2004. Both Democrats and Republicans supported the amendment in committee. Amendment of the constitution requires two thirds approval by both the House and Senate and approval by the voters at the general election. The Department of Corrections estimates it would take three to four years to rebuild the private sector employment (Class I) program should the amendment be passed. The Department must provide Senator Hargrove with a variety of financial impact information before the resolution moves forward. The Department of Corrections supported the measure during testimony as did Bob Abbott representing labor, and Dick Van Wagenen representing the Governor's office.

Ms. Will noted that the proposed amendment would also enable jails to conduct private sector (free venture) industries and requested guidance from the Board about expressing support for SJR 8206. It was moved and seconded to authorize Ms. Will to reply in the affirmative either orally or in writing to any question regarding supporting the resolution, using her judgment. During discussion it was suggested that any testimony she provides should elaborate on the makeup of the Board and highlight that business and labor are working together with state partners. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

E. Needs Assessment Results

Ms. Will reviewed results of the Needs Assessment Survey completed in late 2004. Board members suggested several items for follow-up.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Send results of the needs assessment survey to city and county jails.
- Get samples of mission statements and goals for inmate work programs to use as example for the field.
- Get screening criteria used for alternative work programs so counties have example of what other jurisdictions are doing.
- Follow up with jurisdictions to clarify exactly what type of grant information they are seeking.
- Reframe survey questions as necessary. The high level of “no” responses may have been a result of how the questions were asked.

There was discussion on the importance of work programs particularly as an alternative to incarceration. It is a challenge for jurisdictions to define who is eligible for work programs. Screening criteria are needed for both misdemeanants and felons and the system needs to work together for both groups of offenders. Corrections staff are often reluctant to use alternatives to incarceration when there is high potential for liability. Judicial discretion is very important in this discussion. For example, in King County the court sentences offenders to alternative programs; that decision is not made by corrections staff.

NEW BUSINESS

F. Development of Short and Long Term Operating Plans

In light of the information received from the needs assessment survey, Ms. Will asked Board members for their suggestions on making an operational plan to deliver services to the field in the most effective way possible.

A number of suggestions were made:

- Increase awareness of the Board among its potential customers.
- Pursue private foundation grants and all other grant sources that may apply to correctional agencies.
- Sponsor a grant writing workshop.

- Conduct one-day seminars to bring people together on specific topics. The Board would act as the facilitator to bring experts together.
- Get more specifics on what the needs of the field are and then prioritize them.
- Get more information on survey question eight.
- Provide technical assistance to help a facility that wants to develop a valid jail industries program, however they define it.
- Develop a listing of potential jail industries opportunities.
- Develop a list of short term projects that can be worked on by work crews without conflicting with business and labor.
- Work with the Department of Labor and Industries to encourage their apprenticeship coordinators to do apprenticeship outreach to correctional facilities.
- Make connections between local Work Source offices, jails, and the Board
- Restart the Apprenticeship Information Project.
- Create an employer network of those willing to hire ex-offenders or those in alternative programs. (i.e., identify high turnover businesses that will be more willing. One source is the Washington State Restaurant Association.)
- Identify incentives, including tax credits, for employers to hire ex-offenders.
- Describe how to start jail industries outside of the jail.
- Create linkages with ANEW pre-apprenticeship training at South Seattle Community College.
- Create a list of places for jails to get assistance for inmates seeking to enter the building trades.
- Increase the use of the Board's member resources that can assist jail inmates.
- Target the three top areas identified in the needs assessment:
 - grant opportunities
 - public relations
 - best practices, i.e. models – steps jails took to put programs together
- Include training as it had nine responses in the needs assessment.
- Develop an inmate resource guide.
- Establish links to network resources useful to inmates and jail industries

ACTION ITEM: Board members send Jill Will resources or links that could be of use to jail industries or inmates

ACTION ITEM: Jill Will and Marvin Wolff develop a draft operational plan in light of this discussion and suggestions made by Board members.

G. Board Recruitment

The terms of several members are due to expire in February 2005. Those Board members have requested reappointment and Ms. Will is working with their appointing organizations. The Governor's office is filling the Crime Victims Advocate vacancy on the Board. Chandra Wrzesinski will ask Joyce Turner of WSJA to contact Ms. Will

regarding the WSJA vacancy. Ken Kunes will follow up on a possible Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development nominee.

ACTION ITEM: Chandra Wrzesinski and Ken Kunes follow up with Jill Will on board recruitment.

H. Other Business

None.

I. Adjournment

There being no other business Chair Marvin Wolff called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn.

Summary of Action Items

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